

THE STATE MEDIA CO., INC.
Columbia, South Carolina publisher of



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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA CLERKS OFF	

Attention: Carrie L. DeVier

HERMAN & WHITEAKER, LLC
6720-B ROCKLEDGE DRIVE
SUITE 150
BETHESDA, MD 20817

State of South Carolina

County of Richland

I, Michelle Long, makes oath that the advertisement, was published in The State, a newspaper published in the City of Columbia, State and County aforesaid, in the issue(s) of

1 Insertion(s)

Published On:

January 24, 2021

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CLERK'S OFFICE
**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND
PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES**
DOCKET NO. 2021-17-C

Application of Sandhill Connections, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Chesterfield County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.C (b)

Sandhill Connections, LLC ("Connections," "the Applicant," or the "Company"), filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for one eligible census block located in one eligible census block group in Chesterfield County, South Carolina ("Funded Area"). The Application was filed pursuant to Sections 214 and 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I auction. Connections is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated (Sandhill), an incumbent local exchange carrier. According to the Application, Sandhill participated in the FCC's RDOF Phase I auction and was deemed a winning bidder for one location in the Funded Area, and Sandhill has already filed its application with the FCC to assign its winning bid to Connections. The Application states that the Company is obligated by the FCC to obtain ETC designation status by June 7, 2021. Page 4 of the Application states that Connections will receive \$6,396 over a ten-year period to make its voice and broadband service available, delivering 1 Gigabit broadband to one location in the Funded Area upon completion of certain post-auction requirements. The Applicant is also requesting waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.C(b).

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2021-17-C. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the Company's representatives Carrie L. DeVier, Counsel, and Robin E. Tuttle, Counsel, Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, 6720-B Rockledge Drive, Suite 150, Bethesda, Maryland 20817.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a Party of Record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before February 24, 2021, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all Parties of Record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. Please refer to Docket No. 2021-17-C and mail a copy to all other Parties in this Docket.

Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission, the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and the company at the above address, on or before February 24, 2021. Please refer to Docket No. 2021-17-C.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-617, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 2:00 P.M., before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties.

The rates proposed in the Company's Petition/Application are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenor(s) only):

All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines:
Applicant's Direct Testimony Due: March 1, 2021; Other Parties of Record Direct Testimony Due: March 15, 2021; Applicant's Rebuttal Testimony Due: March 22, 2021; and Other Parties of Record Surrebuttal Testimony Due: March 29, 2021. All Prefiled Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2021-17-C.

For the most recent information regarding this Docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and Docket No. 2021-17-C.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Michelle Long
Inside Classified Accounts
Representative

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 3rd day of February in the year of 2021

Amy L. Robbins
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires:
November 27, 2022

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Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at www.pac.sc.gov.

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